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MASS.

Paid by 35
J.R.C.

PAID

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Rev. A. A. Phelps
East Boston
Mass

you have now in full my object in writing to you. Please answer me soon, whether you are obliged to say "yea, yea" or "nay, nay". Suppose I should visit you, say the third or fourth Sabbath in April & talk the whole matter over in private. Would such a thing be agreeable to you? I have a very strong desire to see & converse with you. If such a "talk" would be acceptable please tell me & "Deo volente" I will give you a call. Again I will say that I wish this communication may be strictly confidential. Do write soon. Then after the "talk which I shall hope to have with you, you can tell better what can be done if any thing.

Yours with great esteem

James R Cushing

P.S. Direct your answer to Haverhill, not East Haverhill & oblige &c. My year will close the 12th of April

& bitter tears, to find myself so situated, that I could not throw all my heart & thoughts & soul into the work, a work in which of all others in which I have ever been engaged, I would rejoice to lay down my life. I am well aware, that I do not possess qualifications needful to stand at the head of such an enterprise; but with labor marked out for me I can work. _work_. _work_. But, my brother, I freely confess, that, I have another object in view in writing you, to me of vastly greater importance than mere employment in the City Mission. And I may as well out with the whole matter at once as not. You are doubtless aware that I have buried my wife & the mother of my three dear surviving children. Now I know of an excellent person, who, I think would not refuse my hand provided I could get employment as above suggested; a person who would make a superior wife, a good mother & an invaluable help to a Missionary among the poor; but especially a "wife", within the _emphatic_ meaning of that term, as used by Solomon where he says "Whoso getteth a _wife_, getteth a good thing & obtaineth the favor of the Lord." My experience in the ministry for ~~the last~~ fifteen years has taught me as nothing else could, how important, nay how absolutely essential to the success of a Minister of Jesus, is a wise, discreet, prudent & accomplished companion. Such an one, I think the person I have in my eye would be. And oh, my brother, you cannot imagine what an invaluable service you would render me, if by any influence of yours this business could be brought about. Well, my brother.

Rev. James R. Cushing
Haverhill Mass.
Mar. 29. 1844.

Haverhill March 29th 1844

Rev A A Phelps

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Dear Sir,

From all appearances my labors with this people will soon close, a circumstance which I very much desire, although I have left *all* for the action of the parish & church. The contents of my letter will disclose my object in writing. By the by I wish the letter to be strictly confidential. I wish first to inquire respecting the City Mission, & whether more than your present number of Missionaries can be employed; & if so, whether there is any probability or possibility that *I* can get employment in that field?

When last engaged in that service, I labored under embarrasments which rendered my labors, in my own eyes, almost valueless, & possibly equally valueless in the estimation of my employers. From these embarrassments, mostly pecuniary, a kind providence has delivered me, or rather has put the means in my hands so that as soon as I can make a final settlement of the estate fallen to me I shall be able to say "I owe no man or body of men any thing." If I am not totally ignorant of myself, if I possess any gifts which can render me useful to my fellow men, they are those which are far better adapted to the conference room, the prayer meeting, the bed side of the sick & the house of poverty & affliction ~~rather~~ than for the pulpit. I love with all my heart the social circle gathered as such circles generally are in private rooms for religious worship. Hence I loved the labors of the city Mission, & while engaged in it, often wept *hot*